

**Page Denied**

Career

## A Lot of Controversy'

# Richard Nixon's View of His Political

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Of The Gazette  
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Some Republicans said Richard M. Nixon, their 1960 presidential candidate, was too restrained in his campaign, "too soft." No one will make such an accusation against Nixon in his new role as author.

Nixon's venture into autobiography, "Six Crises," was published today by Doubleday & Co. In its 460 pages, Nixon writes about the political personalities and issues of the post-war years.

As he himself said last week, "There will be a lot of controversy over the book, I imagine."

### Views of Republicans

Nixon portrays Dwight D. Eisenhower as a great leader and a political neophyte. Thomas E. Dewey emerges as a powerful behind-the-scenes worker despite his two losses in presidential races. John Foster Dulles is remembered with affection and admiration.

But most of all, as in any autobiography, the spotlight is on the author. Nixon, not surprisingly, sees himself as a man of principle, battling both the fates and his political rivals. Fortunately, this emphasis on self is mitigated by Nixon's willingness to admit errors in strategy over the years.

Already the book has stirred up a storm of debate.

### The Cuban Affair

Nixon asserts that his opponent in 1960, John F. Kennedy, had been told by the Central Intelligence Agency that the United States was aiding the Cuban exiles in the plan to invade their homeland.

Nevertheless, Nixon adds, Kennedy irresponsibly declared in the campaign that "these

fighters for freedom (Cuban exiles) have had virtually no support from our government."

Newspapermen, who had read the book, asked President Kennedy and Allen W. Dulles, former director of CIA, about Nixon's charge last week. Both denied that Kennedy had received a briefing about the Cuban invasion plans.

### The Six Crises

Nixon's book is his description of six critical periods in his public life:

1. His role on the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1948 when he led the attack on Alger Hiss, onetime State Department official accused of having been a Communist.

2. His defense of the Nixon fund when he was running for vice president on the Eisenhower ticket in 1952.

3. His leadership of government in 1955 when President Eisenhower suffered a heart attack.

4. His visit to South America in 1958 when he was almost

killed by Communist-inspired mobs in Caracas, Venezuela.

5. His trip to Moscow in 1959 when he and Premier Khrushchev carried on the famous "kitchen debate" in the United States exposition there.

6. His campaign for the presidency.

### Race For President

Of these six "crises" in Nixon's life, the public presumably will be most interested in the presidential campaign.

According to the Gallup Poll, President Kennedy is now extremely popular with a substantial majority of the American people. Yet Kennedy defeated Nixon by only 119,550 votes less than two years ago. Why did Nixon lose?

Nixon does not come to grips with this question directly. And he concedes that Kennedy had something to do with it.

Considering Kennedy's assets, Nixon writes, "from a personal standpoint, he had high intelligence, great energy, and a particularly effective television personality. He also had un-

limited money which already had enabled him to employ a large, skilled staff of organizers, speech-writers, pollsters, and others essential for a successful campaign . . ."

He also notes, "Gallup, Roper, and the other pollsters reported after the election that I got the lowest percentage of the Catholic vote of any Republican presidential candidate in history (22 per cent) and that there was not a corresponding and balancing shift of Protestants away from Kennedy."

While Nixon does not pin down one factor as responsible for his loss, he does indicate he would conduct another campaign differently.

He would not again visit all 50 states — especially if his campaigning time were shortened by an injury as was the case in 1960.

He would spend "more time . . . thinking and planning and . . . less time traveling and speaking."

He would save his energy for major events and not let his staff talk him out of this policy.



Nixon was in this car when attacked in Venezuela

He would pay less attention  
to issues and more to appearance.

#### Another View

Nixon's book is the second major commentary on the 1960 campaign. The other is Theodore H. White's "The Making of The President 1960."

Nixon and White agree at several points in their studies of campaign strategy. But they differ radically in discussing the question of President Eisenhower's participation in the 1960 campaign.

Said White, "The fact that Eisenhower did not (get into the campaign much more than he did), the fact that the President wanted to do so much more, the fact that Eisenhower, with his magic name, sat waiting for a call to participation that never came, still rankles bitterly among Eisenhower men and, probably, in the memory of the ex-president himself."

#### What Nixon Says

Nixon comments, "Eisenhower had decided this was the time for him to move into action."

In other words, Nixon thought the initiative should come from Eisenhower.

Nixon also describes other incidents in which he and Eisenhower were unable to communicate.

Many readers will find themselves fascinated by Nixon's relatively candid description of political life. Others will read Nixon's tale of his visit to Latin America as an adventure story of the first rank.

All, no doubt, will wonder whether Nixon's book will help or hurt his political future. Many politicians, surely, prefer that defeated candidates remain silent, as Dewey and Adlai Stevenson did. But the public may like the idea of having political campaigners speak out freely.

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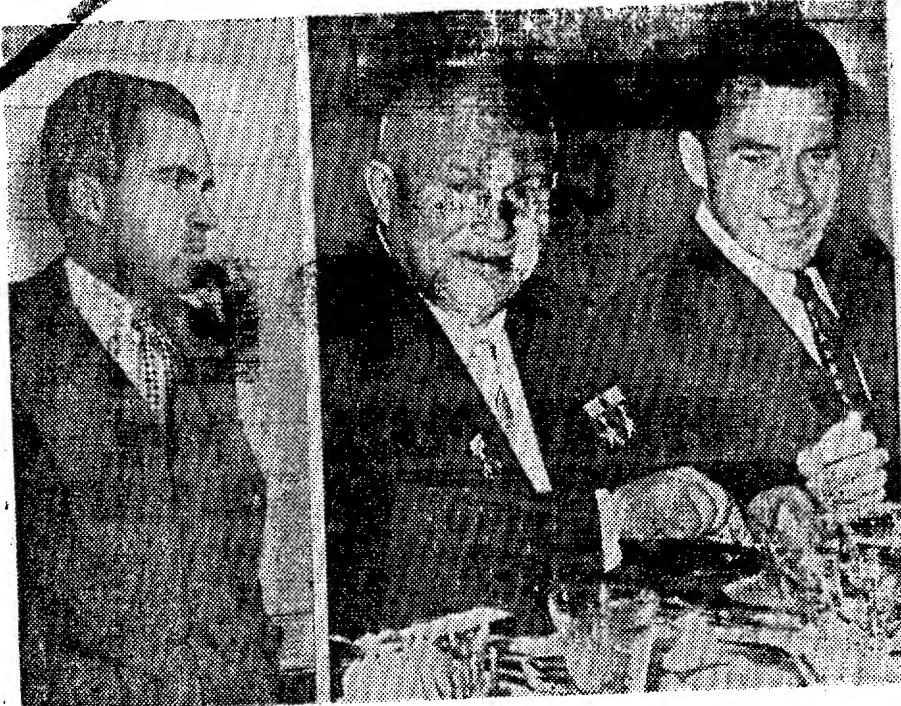
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Three Nixon "crises" — fighting Hiss, visiting Russia, and campaigning for the presidency.

